

**Valley County FSA Office**  
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### **County Committee Members**

Mike Wesen, Chairman  
Arden Unrau, Vice-Chairman  
Richard Fulton, Member  
Theresa Shipp, Advisor

### **FSA Office Personnel**

Mike Hagfeldt, CED  
Stephanie Meier, PT  
Roberta Hopstad, PT  
Sheri Daggett, PT  
Darlene Otten, PT  
Jodie Berg, PT  
Britney Cornwell, PT  
Sharon Baillargeon, FLM  
Jaylein Nickels, FLO  
Del Mullins, TO

### **Dates to Remember:**

**May 15-July 15** – FSA State Committee established Primary Nesting Season for CRP

**May 15-August 1** – Primary Nesting Season for CRP contracts affected by the National Wildlife Federations settlement agreement with FSA

**June 2** – Final loan/LDP availability date for Corn, Dry peas, Grain sorghum, Lentils, Mustard seed, Safflower seed, Small chickpeas, Soybeans, and Sunflower seed harvested in 2007

**June 16** – COC Nominations Open

**Notice of Loss** – filed within 15 calendar days of the natural disaster occurrence or the date the damage to the crop or loss of production was apparent

**July 15** – deadline to provide 2007 production for NAP APH

**July 15** – 2007 NAP Application for Payment Deadline

**July 15** – Acreage report deadline

**August 1** – Deadline for reconstitutions



### **Responsibilities for CRP Contract Holders**

*Contact Person: Britney Cornwell*

CRP contract holders have certain responsibilities for carrying out the terms and conditions of the CRP contract. Those include, but are not limited to:

- ✓ Control all weeds, insects, pests and other undesirable species to the extent necessary to ensure that the establishment and maintenance of the approved cover is adequately protected and there is no adverse impact on surrounding land.
- ✓ Establish and maintain the required vegetative or water cover and other required practices.
- ✓ No activity may be conducted on CRP acres without authorization.
- ✓ Prior approval must be received from FSA before any harvesting, grazing or other commercial use of the forage may begin.
- ✓ If CRP land is sold and the new owner does not wish to continue the CRP contract, the previous CRP participant will be required to repay all payments received on the contract plus interest and liquidated damages. Liquidated damages are equal to 25 percent of the annual rental payment on those acres not contracted by the new owner.

### **CRP Management Activities**

*Contact Person: Britney Cornwell*

Beginning with CRP Signup 26 and Continuous CRP Signup 27, all new CRP contracts were required to have a management activity included in the Conservation Plan of Operations (CPO). Management activities must be completed before the end of year 6 for 10 year contracts and before the end of year 9 for 15 year contracts.

Management activities include:

- Residue Management
- Ground Disturbing
- Interseeding Legumes
- Fabric Management
- Fertilization
- Prescribed Burn

Contact the county office for more detailed information.

**NOTE: There are two primary nesting Dates**

**May 15 – July 15** FSA State Committee established Primary Nesting Season for CRP

**May 15 – August 1** Primary Nesting Season for CRP contracts affected by the National Wildlife Federations settlement agreement with FSA

Check the Conservation Plan of Operations (CPO) for the primary nesting dates that apply to your CRP contract

**2008 Managed Grazing Periods**

Contact Person: Britney Cornwell

The Farm Service Agency State Committee has approved two 60-day managed grazing periods for Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) acres for 2008.

- Spring managed grazing can occur March 15<sup>th</sup> – May 14<sup>th</sup>
- Summer managed grazing can occur July 16<sup>th</sup> through September 13<sup>th</sup>

Due to the National Wildlife Federation Agreement, only two grazing periods are allowed. Producers who can not begin grazing until August 2<sup>nd</sup> will only be allowed to graze through September 13<sup>th</sup>.

*There are new managed haying and grazing rules regarding CRP contracts that were extended or re-enrolled. Please contact the Valley County FSA Office prior to making haying or grazing decisions.*

**Prevented Planting for 2008**

Contact Person: Roberta Hopstad

Prevented planting acreage report for all crops is required to be submitted no later than 15 calendar days after the final planting date for the applicable crop. **A CCC-576 Notice of Loss must be filed with your county office within the 15 day timeframe.** The final planting date for each crop is established by RMA for insurable crops and the National Crop table for non-insurable crops.

**Signup continues for Disaster Programs**

Contact Persons: Sheri Daggett or Stephanie Meier

Signup is still underway for the Crop Disaster Program (CDP) and the Livestock Compensation Program (LCP). The 2005/2006/2007 Disaster Program ending date has not yet been determined. If you have not signed up for LCP or CDP, please contact the Valley County FSA Office for an appointment.

**Measurement Service Charges**

On farm measurement is charged at:

- Basic farm fee of \$30.00;
- Plus an hourly rate of \$16.00 for the first hour and \$8.00 for each additional ½ hour after the first hour. The minimum is 1 hour.

The hourly rate includes the time to travel from the FSA county office to the farm, complete the measurement service and return to the county office.

In-office measurements are charged at a basic farm rate of \$15.00 plus a 30-minute minimum rate of \$8.00.

An "Initial Fee" (the basic rate plus the hourly minimum) is required at the time the measurement service is requested and the fee must be collected before the measurement service is performed. Once the service has been completed the actual fee will be calculated.

Bin site measurements will be calculated according to the farm number and the physical location of the bins:

- for one farm with multiple bin sites, only one FSA-409 (a written request to have acreage measured by FSA) is required;
- for multiple farms and all the grain is stored in bins at one site, only one FSA-409 is required where the bin site is physically located;
- for multiple farms with a different bin site for each farm, a separate FSA-409 is required for each farm and bin site

**2008 certifications (FSA-578's) not returned to the Valley County FSA Office by July 15, 2008 will be charged late filed fees. These fees are equal to measurement service fees.**

**Attention NAP producers! If you had NAP (Noninsured Disaster Assistance Program) in 2007, you need to submit a production report for 2007 NAP crops prior to July 15, 2008. No report will result in a zero production yield for 2007. If you have any questions, contact Roberta Hopstad at 228-4321.**

### **COC Election Approaching!**

*Contact Person: Darlene Otten*

Beginning **June 16, 2008**, nominations are being accepted for candidates for County Committee (COC) positions.

A county or area served by the COC is divided into local administrative areas (LAA). Each LAA is represented by one member on the county committee. Only one LAA holds an election each year. *This year the LAA open in Valley County is LAA-2: Glasgow-Hinsdale-Larb Area.*

The nominee must sign the nomination form in order to be nominated as a COC member.

Nomination forms are available at the county office or by logging on to the Montana FSA website at:  
<http://www.fsa.usda.gov/mt>.

Nomination forms must be submitted to the FSA county office by **August 1, 2008**. Ballots will be sent to eligible voters beginning November 3, 2008. The final day for voters to submit their voted ballots is December 1<sup>st</sup>.

***Please remember that as a county committee member you are the local voice of how FSA programs are administered to meet your local community and resource needs.***

### **FSA Emergency Loans Available in Qualifying Counties**

*Contact Person: Jodie Berg*

Producers in Valley county may be eligible for the Emergency Loan Program for the following events and dates: Hailstorms that occurred on April 1, 2007 through June 30, 2007; hail damage from several storms and damage from high winds and excessive moisture that occurred on June 7, 2007 through July 31, 2007; and hail damage from several storms, damage from high winds and excessive moisture, drought, and excessive heat that occurred on June 1, 2007 and continuing.

Farmers are eligible to apply for emergency loans through the FSA offices servicing their area until June 2, 2008. Emergency loans are made to farmers/ranchers to cover losses resulting from a designated disaster. To be eligible, applicants must be unable to obtain credit from other sources, be able to repay the loan and any other loans, and have adequate security.

### **Loan & LDP Final Availability Dates**

*Contact Person: Sheri Daggett*

<b>Commodity</b>	<b>Availability Date</b>
Corn, Grain sorghum, Mustard seed, Safflower seed, Soybeans, Sunflower seed, Dry peas, Lentils and Small chickpeas	May 31, 2008
Wool/mohair for wool/mohair clipped in calendar year 2008	January 31, 2009

### **Conservation Compliance**

*Contact Person: Roberta Hopstad*

*Federal regulations discourage the production of crops on highly erodible cropland unless the land is protected from erosion by an approved conservation system. Status reviews are conducted to ensure producers follow a conservation plan on highly erodible land. In addition to the highly erodible land, a person may not plant an agricultural commodity on wetlands converted after Dec. 23, 1985, or convert a wetland to make agricultural production possible after Nov. 28, 1990.*

*Failure to comply with these provisions will cause a person to be ineligible for USDA benefits. County Committees may review noncompliance situations for good faith and provide relief in approved cases.*

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Postage Block

**2008 Acreage Reports**      *Contact Person: Roberta Hopstad*

It is time to certify your planted acres. All acreage reports need to be accurate and filed by the final reporting date of **July 15, 2008**. Certification is mandatory if you receive DCP payments (pending new farm bill), if you have acres enrolled in CRP, if you will be requesting loans or LDP's, if you have acreage is covered by NAP.

All acreage reports need to be filed by the final reporting date of **July 15, 2008**. Failure to report accurately may result in loss of program and price support benefits.

**Please contact the office for an appointment to certify your 2008 acreage reports.**

***If you have leases that expired in 2007 or have new land or new leases, please bring them to the FSA office as soon as possible. Keeping land changes up to date will ensure more timely sign ups when a farm bill is passed.***

**DCP Fruit and Vegetable Plantings**      *Contact Person: Roberta Hopstad*

The 2008 Farm Bill has currently not been passed. FSA cannot predict the final terms of what Congress will adapt, however, to ensure compliance with pending farm bill proposals, producers with plans of planting fruit and vegetables (FAV's) in 2008 need to be aware of planting restrictions. These restrictions were applied to base acreage during the 2002 Farm Bill. Please contact the county office for a list of FAV restricted crops. When planting FAV's, producers had the following options:

1. Plant FAV's on a participating farm's "free acres".
2. Plant FAV's on base acreage of a participating farm that has a farm FAV history and takes an acre-for-acre reduction in the DCP payment. NOTE: Farm FAV history is based on the FAV planting history for 1991-1995 or 1998-2001.
3. Plant FAV's on base acreage of a participating farm without farm FAV history, using the producer's FAV history and takes an acre-for-acre reduction in DCP payment. NOTE: Producer FAV history is based on the planting history the producer has of each specific FAV crop.
4. Plant FAV's on a nonparticipating farm.